

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05
CU-02 DHA-02 ERDE-00 /093 W
-----032112Z 060794 /63

P R 301515Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8023
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
USMISSION GENEVA
USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7575

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PARM CSCE MBFR SALT FR UR
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV TV ADDRESS MAY 29

SUMMARY: BREZHNEV'S MAY 29 ADDRESS TO SOVIET AND FRENCH TELEVISION
AUDIENCES FEATURED SEVERAL MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENTS.
BREZHNEV WAS CRITICAL OF THE US ON SALT AND NOT VERY POSITIVE
IN ASSESSING THE VANCE-GROMYKO GENEVA MEETINGS. HE LINKED NON-
FIRST USE TO MBFR IN A VEILED WAY. ON BELGRADE AND HUMAN RIGHTS
HE WAS NOT DEFENSIVE. HIS OVERALL ASSESSMENT FOR FRANCO-SOVIET
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RELATIONS WAS A LUKEWARM "GOOD", WITH ENOUGH IMPLIED CRITICISM
ON ARMS CONTROL ISSUES TO SHOW MUTED DIS-
SATISFACTION. END SUMMARY.

1. BREZHNEV USED THE OCCASION OF THE CLOSE OF FRENCH
WEEK ON SOVIET TELEVISION TO MAKE A MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY
SPEECH TO SOVIET AND FRENCH TV AUDIENCES MAY 29. ASSUMING

DEPARTMENT HAS FULL FBIS TEXT, WE WISH TO HIGHLIGHT FOLLOWING POINTS.

2. SALT: BREZHNEV TAKES THE SAME GENERAL LINE WHICH GROMYKO TOOK IN HIS COMMENTS TO THE PRESS AT GENEVA AIRPORT MAY 21; US ATTEMPTS AT UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE ARE CAUSING THE DELAY IN REACHING AGREEMENT. BREZHNEV'S LANGUAGE HOWEVER, WAS MUCH STRONGER ON THE "LINE TAKEN ON THESE QUESTIONS BY THE NEW AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION" THAN WAS GROMYKO'S. NOT ONLY DOES WASHINGTON "NOT ASSIST" IN REACHING A NEW AGREEMENT, BUT HAS "IMMEASURABLY DELAYED" DRAFTING ONE. FURTHERMORE BREZHNEV BLAMES THE US "UNCONSTRUCTIVE LINE" FOR THE FACT THAT "NO SERIOUS FORWARD MOVEMENT HAS THUS FAR BEEN ACHIEVED". HIS POSITIVE COMMENT ABOUT THE RECENT GENEVA TALKS SEEMS ALMOST GRUDGING: "COMPARED TO THE MOSCOW TALKS IN MARCH," THEY DID "SHOW SIGN OF SOME RAPPROACHMENT" ON "SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT HAD NOT BEE AGREED UPON EARLIER."

3. NUCLEAR NON-FIRST USE: FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY MONTHS, AND FOR TH FIRST TIME EVER BY BREZHNEV, THERE IS A VEILED LINKAGE OF NON-FIRST USE TO MBFR WHEN HE ASSERTS THAT HE IS CONFIDENT THAT AN AGREEMENT ON NON-FIRST USE WOULD "OPEN NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE REDUCTION OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS IN EUROPE, ESPECIALLY IN PLACES WHERE THEIR CONCENTRATION IS GREAT." THERE IS NO REFERENCE MADE TO NON-FIRST USE IN THE CSCE CONTEXT.

4. ARMS CONTROL: NON-PROLIFERATION GOT SECOND BILLING BEHIND CONFIDENTIAL

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SALT IN BREZHNEV'S LISTING OF ARMS CONTROL TOPICS, PROBABLY DUE AS MUCH TO THE DIFFERENCES WITH THE FRENCH ON THIS MATTER, AS TO THE INTRINSIC IMPORTANT THE SOVIETS ATTACH TO IT.

5. RELATIONS WITH FRANCE: APART FROM THE USUAL BOILERPLATE ON FRANCE AND THE USSR BEING "THE RAIL BLAZERS OF A NEW FORM OF REGULAR EXCHANGES BETWEEN COUNTRIES WITH DIFFERENT SBICIAL SYSTEMS" THERE IS A DECIDEDLY RESTRAINED NOTE IN BREZHNEV'S REMARKS ON FRANCO-SOVIET RELATIONS. HIS OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS IS NO BETTER THAN "GOOD", AND THERE IS IMPLIED CRITICISM IN HIS STATEMENT IN THAT PART OF THE TALK DEVOTED TO ARMS CONTROL THAT "THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT SUCH A POWER AS FRANCE COULD MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THIS UNDERTAKING." ALSO, HIS COMMENT THAT "WE HOPE THAT FRANCE WILL ALSO MOVE" IN THE DIRECTION OF NEW ACTIONS IN THE ARMS CONTROL AREA IS LESS THAN A RINGING ENDORSEMENT OF FRENCH ARMED CONTROL POLICY. BUT THE ADDRESS ENDS ON AN UPBEAT NOTE

WITH BREZHNEV LOOKING TO HIS COMING VISIT TO FRANCE AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR TAKING NEW STEPS IN FRANCO-SOVIET COOPERATION.

6. BELGRADE AND HUMAN RIGHTS: BREZHNEV IS CAUTIOUS BUT NOT DEFENSIVE IN HIS COMMENT ON BELGRADE, CLAIMING THAT "IT CAN" TAKE PLACE "AS IT WAS PLANNED," I.E. AS A CONTINUATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE HELSINKI SPIRIT AND ANOTHER LINK IN DETENTE. BUT THIS IS BALANCED BY THE STATEMENT THAT "ANYBODY WHO MIGHT TRY TO ORIENT IT IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION WOULD BE ASSUMING A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY." ON HUMAN RIGHTS BREZHNEV SHOWS NO DEFENSIVENESS, BUT RATHER DEFINES THE SUBJECT IN TERMS OF SOCIAL RIGHTS AND SERVICES (EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, MEDICAL CARE, SOCIAL SECURITY) IN A MANNER WHICH HAS BECOME STANDARD IN SOVIET PRESS TREATMENT IN THE PAST MONTHS. THE NEW DRAFT CONSTITUTION IS MENTIONED ALSO IN CONNECTION WITH CSCE AND ALONG WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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THE FIVE YEAR PLAN AS EXAMPLES OF IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THE SOVIET PEOPLE, THUS REINFORCING OUR BELIEF THAT CSCE WAS IMPORTANT SECONDARY FACTOR IN THE TIMING OF THE CONSTITUTION'S PUBLICATION AND ADOPTION. THE CONSTITUTION WILL SAY BREZHNEV, "PROVIDE THE POLITICAL AND LEGAL BASE FOR THE CONTINUED PERFECTION OF DEMOCRACY IN A DEVELOPED SOCIALIST SOCIETY." MATLOCK

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FEATURED SEVERAL MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY ST
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, FR, UR, CSCE, MBFR, (BREZHNEV, LEONID I)
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